

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087343
ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /044 R

DRAFTED BY IO:DRTOUSSAINT '
APPROVED BY IO:CMAYNES
S/IL:DGOOD(SUBS)
AF:LSLEZAK
DOL:DHOROWITZ(SUBS)
IO/LAB:APALMER
UNA:AMB. YOUNG

-----190121Z 000300 /62

O R 190055Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO

SUBJECT: LETTER TO BRIG GARBA

REF: LAGOS 3115

EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING TO MINISTRY FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ASAP.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: BRIGADIER J.N. GARBA
COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LAGOS, NIGERIA

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DEAR MR. COMMISSIONER:

I VERY MUCH ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITY WE HAD IN NEW YORK TO
DISCUSS SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES
AND NIGERIA. UNFORTUNATELY, I DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY
DURING OUR MEETING TO RAISE ONE OTHER ISSUE WHICH I WOULD
LIKE TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION, NAMELY THE FORTHCOMING

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ILO.

AS YOU KNOW, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ENDORSED THE POSITION
TAKEN IN THE US LETTER OF NOVEMBER 5, 1975, NAMELY:

THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT DESIRE TO LEAVE THE ILO. THE
UNITED STATES DOES NOT EXPECT TO DO SO. BUT WE DO INTEND
TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO PROMOTE THE CONDITIONS
WHICH WILL FACILITATE OUR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION. IF
THIS SHOULD PROVE IMPOSSIBLE, WE ARE IN FACT PREPARED TO
DEPART."

OUR TWO-YEAR NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL DOES NOT OFFICIALLY
EXPIRE UNTIL NOVEMBER 5 OF THIS YEAR. IN PRACTICAL TERMS,
HOWEVER, THE TIME AT OUR DISPOSAL MUST BE RECKONED IN
WEEKS -- FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE ILO MEETINGS IN MAY AND
JUNE, PARTICULARLY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WILL BE CRUCIAL
TO THE DECISION WE MUST MAKE ABOUT CONTINUED PARTICIPATION
IN THE ILO.

THAT DECISION, GIVEN THE TRIPARTITE NATURE OF THE ILO,
MUST BE MADE IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH BUSINESS AND
LABOR COMMUNITIES IN THIS COUNTRY. LIKE THE US GOVERNMENT,
THESE GROUPS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE IN
THE ILO IN RECENT MONTHS. LIKE US, THEY LOOK UPON THE
JUNE CONFERENCE AS A CRITICAL TEST OF WHETHER THAT PROGRESS
CAN BE SUSTAINED.

I BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT CONTINUED US MEMBERSHIP IN AN
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IMPROVED ILO IS NOT ONLY IN AMERICAN INTERESTS BUT ALSO IN
THE INTERESTS OF OTHER MEMBER STATES. IN ADDITION, AS YOU
WILL PERHAPS FEEL ALSO, I FEAR A US DECISION TO WITHDRAW
FROM THE ILO COULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS EXTENDING FAR BEYOND
THE ILO ITSELF. FOR THESE REASONS, I CONSIDER IT ABSOLUTE-
LY CRUCIAL THAT THE ILO, AT ITS JUNE CONFERENCE, SUSTAIN
THE MOMENTUM OF RECENT MONTHS.

I SENSE THAT AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE OUT-
COME OF THE JUNE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE MEETING OF LABOR
MINISTERS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN
TRIPOLI IN LATE APRIL. IF ON THE ONE HAND, THAT
MEETING ENCOURAGES MEMBER STATES TO LOOK SOBERLY AT THE
SERIOUS ISSUES THAT WILL BE POSED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE ILO, THEN PROGRESS WILL BE POSSIBLE. IF ON THE
OTHER HAND, THESE ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED IN THE CONTEXT OF
MATTERS WHICH PROPERLY LIE OUTSIDE THE MANDATE OF THE ILO,
THEN PROGRESS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE AND A MAJOR SETBACK TO
THE UN SYSTEM SEEMS INEVITABLE. I AM, THEREFORE, WRITING

YOU IN THE HOPE THAT NIGERIA CAN JOIN OTHERS IN USING ITS
INFLUENCE FOR A LONGER RANGE APPROACH TO ILO ISSUES AT THE
TRIPOLI MEETING. I WOULD HOPE THIS CRITICAL MEETING DOES
NOT RESULT IN THE FORMULATION OF FIXED POSITIONS WHICH
COMPEL MEMBERS TO ARRIVE AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE

ILO WITH PRE-DETERMINED ATTITUDES THAT WILL MAKE A SUCCESS-
FUL OUTCOME OF THE JUNE CONFERENCE IMPOSSIBLE.

IT WOULD NOT SEEM NECESSARY FOR ME TO GO INTO ANY DETAIL
ABOUT THE MAJOR ISSUES WHICH WILL ARISE AT THE JUNE
CONFERENCE AND OUR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THEM. THOSE ISSUES
WERE THOROUGHLY COVERED DURING THE EXCELLENT TALKS HELD
WITH OFFICIALS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN JANUARY WHEN DANIEL
HOROWITZ, OUR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ILO GOVERNING BODY,
VISITED LAGOS. IN GENERAL TERMS, HOWEVER, WE ARE SEEKING
TO AMEND THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE ILO CONFERENCE (SPECI-
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FICALLY ARTICLE 17) TO ENSURE THAT RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED
BY THE CONFERENCE ARE HANDLED WITH DUE PROCESS, AND THAT
SUBJECTS COVERED BY RESOLUTIONS ARE APPROPRIATE AND RELEV-
ANT TO THE WORK OF THE ILO. IN ADDITION, WE CONSIDER IT
ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT CHARGES OR COMPLAINTS MADE
AGAINST ANY MEMBER STATE ARE DEALT WITH BY RECOURSE TO
THE REGULAR INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES AND DUE PROCESS WHICH
HAVE BEEN AND SHOULD REMAIN THE HALLMARK OF THE ILO. IN
RECENT YEARS, AS YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES KNOW, THE CONF-
ERENCE HAS OFTEN BY-PASSED SUCH PROCEDURES, WHICH TOOK
FIFTY YEARS TO DEVELOP, AND THIS HAS LED TO GREAT DIS-
ILLUSIONMENT ABOUT THE ILO'S IMPARTIALITY, WHICH
PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN HIGHLY RESPECTED.

I APPRECIATE YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

ANDREW YOUNG

END UNCLASSIFIED
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE087343
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DRTOUSSAINT '\'
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770134-0958
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770442/aaaabkdo.tel
Line Count: 161
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4deb4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAGOS 3115
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2762557
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO BRIG GARBA
TAGS: ELAB, NI, US, ILO, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (GARBA, JOSEPH)
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4deb4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009